

apprehension of indicted war criminals like Ratko Mladić, who remain at large. Elsewhere in the region, Bob has worked particularly hard to promote democracy, human rights and rule of law in Albania, a country he first visited in 1990. Beyond his responsibilities monitoring developments in the Balkans region, Bob ably serves as secretary for the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I am pleased to recognize and commend Bob Hand for his faithful, dedicated, and tireless service to me and my colleagues.

HONORING ANGELO DESORBO ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, and the West Haven community in wishing a very special happy birthday to Angelo DeSorbo who is celebrating his 100th birthday.

Angelo DeSorbo might best be known as the gentleman selling plants and flowers at "Kimberly Open-Air Market on the corner of Ella Grasso Boulevard and Kimberly Avenue in New Haven—a vocation he has enjoyed for more than 65 years. Kind-hearted and generous with a smile, Mr. DeSorbo is well-known throughout the community and has become a good friend to many of his customers. Even today, though he sometimes has difficulty walking, he is driven to his stand every morning, weather permitting. He may be celebrating his centennial anniversary, but Angelo DeSorbo is still young at heart and spry of spirit. In the decades that he has been at the "Kimberly Open-Air Market," Mr. DeSorbo has become a New Haven institution—a community treasure.

Marking decades of hard work, this occasion reflects an important milestone in Mr. DeSorbo's life. Over the years, he has witnessed remarkable changes and extraordinary progress. Living standards have blossomed for most Americans as technology has altered some of our most basic expectations. Indeed he can take pride in having participated in some of the most exciting times in our history, and can look forward to the progress of the new millennium.

I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Angelo DeSorbo and to join his daughter, Adelaide; her husband, Michael; his two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, in wishing him a very happy 100th birthday. Mr. DeSorbo has left an indelible mark on our community and I wish him many more years of health and happiness. Happy birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF 30 YEARS OF
SERVICE BY THE SACRAMENTO
CHINESE COMMUNITY SERVICE
CENTER

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center for 30 years of service to immigrants, refugees, and disadvantaged groups in the Sacramento area.

The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center was founded in 1978 to aid newly arrived Chinese immigrants in dealing with the myriad challenges of immigration and cultural adaptation. Over the last few years, its programs have expanded to help other non-Chinese immigrants, refugees, and other disadvantaged groups that call Sacramento home including those of Hmong, Mien, Vietnamese, Ukrainian, and Russian descent.

The SCCSC assists more than 4,000 clients each year, including 2,400 children in their after school programs. It offers 26 programs, including youth mentoring and counseling, employment assistance, translation, transportation and home health visits for senior citizens, parenting workshops, job skill workshops and paid work experience, and citizenship classes.

The SCCSC has received recognition for its successes, including having received the Gloria Rose Memorial Grant Award from the United Way California Capitol Region for being an agency which achieves outstanding results, and works towards building a stronger, healthier, and more compassionate community. The SCCSC has also received the Spirit of Mentoring Award from the California Mentor Foundation for providing an exemplary community-based mentor program.

Madam Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center upon the occasion of its 30th anniversary, and express my gratitude to the center for providing essential services and support to new immigrants, citizens, refugees, at-risk youth, senior citizens, and others in need. The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center has provided the community with a wide array of opportunities, and I wish its leaders the best of luck as they continue in their service.

HONORING ARMY STAFF
SERGEANT ALEX JIMENEZ

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor, salute, and pay tribute to one of our brave fallen soldiers.

Army Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez went to Iraq for the first time in 2005. Already fluent in Spanish, he quickly taught himself Arabic and became a translator for fellow soldiers who needed to communicate with the Iraqi people they had been sent there to protect. Army officials always praised his leadership and strength.

Alex took pride in the Army and his responsibilities as a soldier. He once told his cousin, "Honestly, I signed the contract, and it doesn't matter what my opinion is. I just think about the guy to my left and the guy to my right making it home. That's all I care about." He recognized the importance of his duties, writing, "I believe that in the United States Army, I may reach my goals which are—making positive differences, bringing peace to the innocent, and making justice my duty as a U.S. soldier."

Without a doubt, Alex achieved all of these goals.

Without a doubt, Alex made his family, his army, and his hometown community of Corona, Queens very proud.

And, without a doubt, Alex's services to our country was honorable and distinguished.

Sadly, however, on May 12, 2007, Alex Jimenez, along with six of his fellow soldiers, was patrolling a deserted highway south of Baghdad, looking for insurgents planting roadside bombs, when he and the group came under fire. Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez, who was on his second tour in Iraq, Specialist Byron Fouty, and Private First Class Joseph J. Anzack Jr. were taken prisoner.

The four soldiers who died in the attack were Sergeant Anthony J. Schober, Private First Class Daniel W. Courneya, Private Christopher E. Murphy, and Sergeant First Class James D. Connell, all of Delta Company, 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. Private First Class Joseph J. Anzack Jr.'s body was recovered on May 23, 2007.

The Queens community mourned for the loss of Alex's fellow soldiers and, together, we prayed for the safe return of Alex and Byron. Despite our wishing and hoping for the best, the bodies of Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez and Specialist Byron W. Fouty were found on July 8, 2008.

So many worked tirelessly to bring Alex home, and the Queens community and Alex's family are so appreciative and grateful for their efforts. Because now, we have the opportunity to say goodbye to Alex one more time and to lay his body to rest.

As a parent, I know that this loss will stay with Sergeant Jimenez's family forever. But, I hope that in some small way, Alex Jimenez's parents have some relief now that they finally have the opportunity to lay their son to rest. Those closest to him will always remember his love for music and his family, and his loyalty as a soldier and friend. I extend my deepest and most sincere sympathies to the family of Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez, and thank them for their sacrifice for our country.

I would like to close my remarks by reading a few pieces of the U.S. Army Soldier's Creed, which exemplifies the type of person Staff Sergeant Jimenez was; a man who loved his family and his country.

I am a Warrior, and a member of a team.

I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values.

I will always place the mission first.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.